

ARIZONA SENTINEL

YUMA SOUTHWEST

VOLUME XLV. NUMBER 43.

YUMA, ARIZONA, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1915.

DR. MEAD CALLS COST REVIEW BOARD TO ORDER AT 9 A. M.

(By B. F. Fly)

When the local board of cost review convened this morning at 9 o'clock Dr. Elwood Mead occupied my old seat at the extreme end of the long table in the center of the room occupied by the previous local board of cost review. To the left was the witness chair; to his right sat former Chairman Fleming. Next to him Official Stenographer Clark, my seat being next.

Dr. Mead called the board to order. He explained the object of the review, and said that the signers of the petition asking him and Mr. Fleming to take up the review represented considerably over three-fourths of the land owners of the Arizona lands in the Yuma project. He then outlined the general scope of the inquiry about to begin. Attorneys Molloy and Ingraham and Messrs. Bondesson Schutz and other water users together with Project Manager Lawson and Chief Clerk Stilson being interested spectators, ready to testify when called upon.

Mr. Lawson was the first witness. He was asked to explain the itemized statement of book accounts, particularly with reference to the allocation of the costs of Laguna dam as applied to each unit of the project. In reply, he said the records showed that this dam, sluiceway and regulators amounted to a cost of \$15.70 per acre. In this connection he figured the 40,000 acres in the mesa as part of the project.

The distribution system, mains and laterals, aggregated a cost of \$18.00 per acre. He estimated that it would cost \$15.70 per acre to put water on the mesa. This included the enlargement of the main canal from the dam to the spillway in order to get sufficient electric horsepower to better be able to pump the water to the lands on the mesa.

The levee and river front work cost approximately \$2,000,000.

In answer to a question put by Dr. Mead, Mr. Lawson said the river protection work should not be charged to the project. The only reason, in his opinion, for charging that expense to the project was to get the project started. Other lands are being protected by such work by the government without cost to the lands, and he could see no reason why Yuma project should be charged with that expense.

Had it been known in advance how much of this was to have been done, the project, in all probability, never would have been begun, because of the expense of the levee, or river front work. It will be necessary to keep on doing this work indefinitely. To complete the entire revetment work, he estimated roughly, would require about as much more money as has already been spent—in other words, about \$4,000,000. This, of itself, if charged to the project would be equal to about \$35 per acre.

Mr. Lawson gave the total acres under irrigation this year as 21,109 acres in Arizona, and about 5,000 acres in California, and 900 acres in the Gila valley, or about one-fifth of the total irrigable area. The canals are now prepared to irrigate considerably more.

The condition of the Colorado and Gila rivers does not justify further work in the Gila section. The danger is from eroding. Not only that, but the roads are of such character that ingress and egress is difficult. High water may make a cutoff, but the cutoff may not be permanent.

There are less than 1000 acres in cultivation in the Gila valley subject to irrigation.

"The river channel," said Mr. Lawson, "is gradually filling up from Yuma to the dam, due to the increased length of the river, caused by constant changes from erosions. A slight effect on the river in raising its bed, is caused by the sluicing out of the settling basin, but this does not materially affect the raising of the bed of the river from Yuma to the dam."

He testified that there are 258 owners of irrigable land living on the farms in Yuma valley, to 145 renters.

The total cost of operation and maintenance on all lands in Arizona to date has been \$489,219.51, of which there is a deficit of \$247,760. If all the lands had been in cultivation, the cost would not have been materially increased; and by using all the water that the canals are capable of, there would be less inclination for them to be filled with silt.

Regarding preliminary cost that is charged against the project Mr. Lawson designated about twenty items that in his opinion should be charged to Yuma project, aggregating in the neighborhood of half a million dollars.

Dr. Mead asked Mr. Lawson if he

would favor recommending that the Bard U. S. Experiment farm be turned back to the project. He said he certainly would, in which event it would bring a profit to the project, whereas it now brings in no revenue whatever, the water being furnished free.

Mr. Fleming asked about those celebrated horses and mules (jackasses not included) where they are shown to have made a profit of \$44,000. Mr. Stilson gave a detailed explanation of the transaction which shows that is the mules and horses were now sold they would show a clear profit of not less than \$30,000, which wholly cleared up that question.

Attorney Molloy asked some questions pertaining to the mesa, particularly as to why 70,000 acres on the Mesa were not included instead of 40,000.

Mr. Lawson sent for a large relief map and showed that the 40,000 acres embraced all the length of the mesa, leaving out about 30,000 acres nearest the mountains.

Mr. Molloy went into many questions pertaining to the cost of the project, particularly with reference to surveys all over the project, suggesting that these surveys were unnecessary because they had already been made by the land office.

Mr. Lawson explained that the land office did not make surveys in the detail necessary for reclamation purposes, which settled that question.

It was brought out that the Washington office has cost the project \$147,000; local office and general expense, \$300,000; \$41,000 supervising engineer; \$19,000 expert engineering.

A hypothetical question put to Mr. Lawson by Mr. Molloy, as to what could or could not have been done within a certain given time was ruled out by Dr. Mead, he holding that in the interest of time and economy it was not necessary to press such questions, for it might involve Mr. Lawson in a controversy with his superior officers and do no particular good. The question was at once withdrawn.

Attorney Molloy, after Mr. Lawson concluded his testimony, addressed the board on the question of the "contract" entered into between land owners and the Geological Department of the Interior Department. He made a strong plea to substantiate his contention, reading all the documents in the possession of the water users. He had just got fairly started when the board took a recess for dinner.

The board reconvened at 2 p. m.

○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○
○ "He is thrice armed who has
○ his quarrel just." But he is thrice
○ wise who is prepared to back his
○ quarrel with a club.—Duluth
○ News-Tribune.
○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○

NEWS FROM MAXEY'S CONSTRUCTION CAMP

(By our Special Correspondent)

J. H. Maxey, who is handling the Tucson, Cornelia and Gila Bend railroad with the aid of a Ford car, Pat Sullivan and two Mexican dictionaries, will have the road completed by the first of the year. About all the work has been subbed except the bridge building. Talk about a Sunny Jim smile, J. H. has it. We are promised a ride in a new Packard!

Jim went into a barber shop to get his nails manicured. After some time had elapsed, the porter came in all excited and said, "Mr. Jim, am dat yc Fode cah outside. If it is, yo betta look afta it. De ants am draggin it unda de side-walk."

The railroad will be 43 miles long and is being built from Gila to Ajo, to serve the New Cornelia Mining company at Ajo. The mine is located, and is principally copper 50,000,000 tons developed; 11,000,000 tons will leached with acid and the copper recovered from the solution by electricity. The balance is sulphides and will be treated by the floatation process. A 4,000 ton mill will be built immediately. John C. Greenway is manager with offices at Warren, Arizona. M. Curley is superintendent at Ajo, and a very capable man. His experience gained on the Iron Range will help him to make a success of the Cornelia. We spent a very pleasant day with him.

Ajo is at an altitude of 1700 feet and is in the southern part of the state. Population of about 350, consisting of the mine management, the miners, etc.

COTTON FUTURES ACT IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL

(Associated Press)

New York, Oct. 13.—Federal Judge Heough today decided the cotton futures act unconstitutional, and rendered judgment in favor of Daniel T. Hubbard, et al., in the suit to recover damages for an assessment made and collected by the collector of internal revenue.

GERMAN STEAMER LEONHARDT IS SUNK

(Associated Press)

COPENHAGEN, Oct. 13.—The German steamer Leonhardt was submerged today in the British Baltic campaign to cut German supplies from Scandinavia. The crew was taken off in small boats by the British warships.

New magazines at Shoreys